

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02877 091249Z

71

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SUBJECT: ALGERIAN REGIME PREPARES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

1. GOA PROPAGANDA EFFORT FOR DECEMBER 10 ELECTION OF BOUMEDIENE AS PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC HAS SURPASSED ANYTHING YET UNDERTAKEN IN REGIME'S PROGRAM OF SOCIALIST INSTITUTION BUILDING. SEVERAL PAGES OF EVERY ALGERIAN PUBLICATIONS IN PAST FEW DAYS DEVOTED TO ENDLESS RECOUNTING OF SIZE AND NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT ACROSS COUNTRY AND TO LISTING OF BOUMEDIENE'S AND REGIME'S ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 1965 COUP.

2. HEAVY EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON GETTING OUT EVEN MORE OF VOTE THAN 92.91 PERCENT REPORTEDLY ACHIEVED IN NOVEMBER 19 CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF SITUATION IN ONE ELECTORAL DISTRICT PREDICTED THAT 97.76 PERCENT TURNOUT FOR CONSTITUTION THERE WOULD BE "GREATLY SURPASSED" IN DECEMBER 10 VOTING.

3. BOUMEDIENE'S PERSONALITY CULT ALSO CONTINUES TO GROW. HIS NAME APPEARS ON DEMONSTRATORS' BANNERS MORE FREQUENTLY EVEN THAN "SOCIALISM" AND CROWDS ALTERNATE BETWEEN CHANTING HIS FIRST AND LAST NAMES. HIS PICTURE IS EVERYWHERE.

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02877 091249Z

4. AS IN PAST, WE SURMISE THAT REGIME'S ORGANIZATIONAL

EFFORT HAS BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL IN COUNTRYSIDE THAN IN CAPITAL. ON BASIS OF LIMITED OBSERVATION, WOULD APPEAR THAT LARGE CROWDS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO, AND TAKEN AWAY FROM, APPOINTED RURAL MEETING SPOTS EFFICIENTLY AND THAT THEY HAVE PERFORMED ASSIGNED TASKS WITH REASONABLE ENTHUSIASM.

5. IN ALGIERS, HOWEVER, STORY HAS BEEN DIFFERENT. DESPITE BEAUTIFUL WEATHER AND CLOSING OF SCHOOLS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND DOWNTOWN STREETS, MASS DEMONSTRATION DECEMBER 8 PROVED QUITE DESULTORY. SOME YOUNG PEOPLE SHOUTED AND MARCHED ENTHUSIASTICALLY, BUT MOST PREFERRED SIMPLY TO LOOK ON SILENTLY EITHER AS PART OF CROWD OR FROM SIDEWALK CAFES. ORATORY BY ACTING CHIEF MESSAADIA UNINSPIRING, AND GREATEST STIR OBSERVED BY EMOFF WAS CAUSED BY APPEARANCE IN STREET OF FEMALE DANCER. SHE WAS ONE OF RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF HER SEX TO PUT IN AN APPEARANCE.

6. IF ALGERIANS LESS THAN SWEEPED OFF THEIR FEET BY PRE-ELECTORAL PROCEEDINGS, WE DETECT LITTLE OPPOSITION TO BOUMEDIENE'S IMPENDING TRIUMPH. TWO OPPOSITION TRACTS, BOTH SEEMINGLY BEARING MOROCCAN IMPRIMATUR, HAVE BEEN SENT TO SELECTED ADDRESSES THROUGH ALGERIAN MAIL. (IN ADDITION TO DOCUMENT REPORTED IN ALGIERS 2816

NOTAL, MOHAMED BOUDIAF'S SOCIALIST REVOLUTION PARTY HAS ALSO SENT OUT A COMMUNICATION DENOUNCING CONSTITUTION AND BOUMEDIENE.) THESE BROADSIDES HAVE PROVOKED ONE MEDIA DENUNCIATION OF IMPERIALIST-INSPIRED CRY BABIES, BUT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OTHER REACTION TO THEM.

7. TURNOUT OF VOTERS IN CITY OF ALGIERS WILL BE, WE EXPECT, POINT OF PRIDE FOR REGIME, AND OFFICIAL FIGURE WILL SURELY EXCEED THE LOW 64 PERCENT REPORTED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM. SINCE TOTAL FALSIFICATION OF FIGURES APPARENTLY NOT POSSIBLE IN RELATIVELY ENLIGHTENED CAPITAL, SIZE OF INCREASE WILL BE ONE MEASURE OF SUCCESS OF REGIME'S ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT.
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PAGE 03 ALGIER 02877 091249Z

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